

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraphs 0034 and 0035 on page 8 as follows:

[0034] FIG. 2 illustrates an exemplary sensor network 110 consistent with the present invention. Sensor network 110 may include one or more sensor nodes 205a – 205s that may be distributed across a geographic area. Sensor nodes 205a – 205s may communicate with one another, and with one or more monitor points 105a – 105n, via wireless or wire-line links (not shown), using, for example, packet-switching mechanisms. Using techniques such as those described in co-pending Patent Application No. [[____]] 09/999,353, entitled “Systems and Methods for Scalable Routing in Ad-Hoc Wireless Sensor Networks” and filed [[____]] November 15, 2001 (the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein), sensor nodes 205a – 205s may organize themselves into an ad-hoc, multi-hop wireless network through the communication of routing messages and message datagrams.

[0035] FIG. 3 illustrates sensor network 110 self-organized into tiers using conventional routing protocols, or the routing protocol described in the above-described co-pending Patent Application No. [[____]] 09/999,353. When organized into tiers, messages may be forwarded, hop by hop through the network, from monitor points to sensor nodes, or from individual sensor nodes to monitor points that act as “sinks” for nearby sensor nodes. As shown in the exemplary network configuration illustrated in FIG. 3, monitor point MP1 105a may act as a “sink” for message datagrams from sensor nodes 205a – 205e, monitor point MP2 105b may act as a “sink” for message datagrams from sensor nodes 205f – 205l, and monitor point MP3 105n may act as a “sink” for message datagrams from sensor nodes 205m – 205s.